

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00867 181518Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 /099 W

-----182041Z 123707 /46

R 180810Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9779

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0867

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, BC

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA

REF: A) STATE 76126 B) ADDIS ABABA 2005

1. SUMMARY: A THREE-MAN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION COMPOSED OF DERGUE MEMBER MAJOR NADEW ZECHARIAS, LEADER OF DELEGATION, ATO ASSEFEW LEGGESE, HEAD OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND ATO MENGESTE DESTA, ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO KENYA, UGAND AND TANZANIA, VISITED BOTSWANA APRIL 3-6. DURING STAY THEY MET WITH PRESIDENT SERETSE KHAMA AND MINISTERS MOGWE AND KWELAGOB, OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION, RESPECTIVELY. ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO HELP ACQUAINT PRESIDENT KHAMA AND GOB WITH ACHIEVEMENTS OF DERGUE, WHICH OVERTHREW THE PREVIOUS FEUDAL MONARCHY WHICH WAS BENT ON EXPLOITING THE ETHIOPIAN MASSES .
END SUMMARY.

2.. MAJOR ZECHARIAS WAS SPOKESMAN FOR THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION AT MEETING WITH LOCAL PRESS FOLLOWING THREE-DAY STAY IN BOTSWANA DURING WHICH IT DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF STATE MARIAM TO PRESIDENT KHAMA. IN ADDITION TO ELABORATING PURPOSE OF VISIT NOTED ABOVE, DELEGATION HEAD ZECHARIAS OUTLINED ETHIOPIA S POLICIES AND PURPOSES TO PRESS IN FOLLOWING TERMS:

A) ETHIOPIA SUPPORTS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BECAUSE OAU IS HEADQUARTERED IN HIS COUNTRY AND ETHIOPIA IS A MEMBER OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE,

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 GABORO 00867 181518Z

B) ETHIOPIA IS APPRECIATIVE OF THE SACRIFICES MADE BY BOTSWANA AND OTHER FRONT-LINE STATES IN LIBERATING BLACK PEOPLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA STILL UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION,

C) ZECHARIAS SAID DERGUE HAD UNDERTAKEN A PROGRAM OF POLITICIZING ETHIOPIAN MASSES SO THAT WHEN THEY ARE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RIGHTS WE CAN HAND POWER TO THEM . HE DECLINED TO DISCLOSE WHEN POWER WOULD BE HANDED BACK TO CIVILIANS,

D) SOCIALISM IS THE DECLARED POLICY, ITS PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE
EQUALITY AND JUSTICE AMONG THE MASSES . TO IMPLEMENT IT,
60,000 STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PROFESSORS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED
TO RURAL AREAS TO MAKE MASSES AWARE OF DERGUE LIBERATION FROM
STARVATION, IGNORANCE, DISEASE .

E) ZECHARIAS EXPLAINED THAT FEUDAL LAND TENANT SYSTEM HAS
BEEN ABOLISHED AND LAND NATIONALIZED AND GIVEN TO PEASANTS,
500 SQUARE METERS PER PERSON (SIC),

F) MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION HAVE BEEN LOCALIZED
AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS NO LONGER PROFIT MAKING ORIENTED ,

G) RE ERITREA, ZECHARIAS SAID ARABS ARE BEHIND ERITREAN
PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY WANT TO CONTROL THE RED SEA AND ARE
THUS VIOLATING UN AND OAU CHARTRS,

H) DERGUE IS DECENTRALIZING POWER TO RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC
GROUPS WHO ARE ALLOWED SELF-DETERMINATION THROUGH REGIONAL
AUTONOMY .

I) FORMER ETHIOPIAN DERGUE CHIEFS WERE ASSASSINATED BECAUSE
THEY WANTED TO MONOPOLIZE POWER. THEY WERE EXTREME LEFTISTS.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE, AS YET, NO REACTION, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE,
TO THE VISIT OF THE ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION. COMMENT WHEN RECEIVED
WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL.

4. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED.

NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOODWILL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770347/aaaabobf.tel
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 76126, 77 ADDIS ABABA 2005
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3069604
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA
TAGS: PFOR, ET, BC, (KHAMA, SERETSE M), (NADEW ZECHARIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e70eeeb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009